

**DOCKET NO.: VERT-0003**  
**Application No.: 10/087,363**  
**Office Action Dated: June 17, 2004**

**PATENT**

**Amendments to the Drawings**

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Fig(s) 1-23. In particular, reference numerals, corresponding to those added to the specification, have been added to the respective figures. The sheet(s), which includes Fig(s) 1-23, replaces the original sheet(s) including Fig(s) 1-23.

**Attachment: replacement sheet(s)**

# Neutral Tandem Customers

**NEUTRAL TANDEM™**

• • • Mobile • • •

Get more from life.



**Level 3<sup>®</sup>**

The Network Partner You Can Rely On.<sup>™</sup>

◆ Sprint ✓ verizon wireless  
We never stop working for you.®

XO cingular  
fits you best.™

XO  
NEXTEL

McLeod USA ✓ RCN<sup>®</sup>  
THE LIVE WIRE. ✓ WilTel<sup>®</sup>  
communications ✓ FOCAL<sup>®</sup>

✓ U.S. Cellular  
ICG  
Allegiance

**mPower**  
Communications

✓ PAETEC

Globalcom

CIMCO

TDS

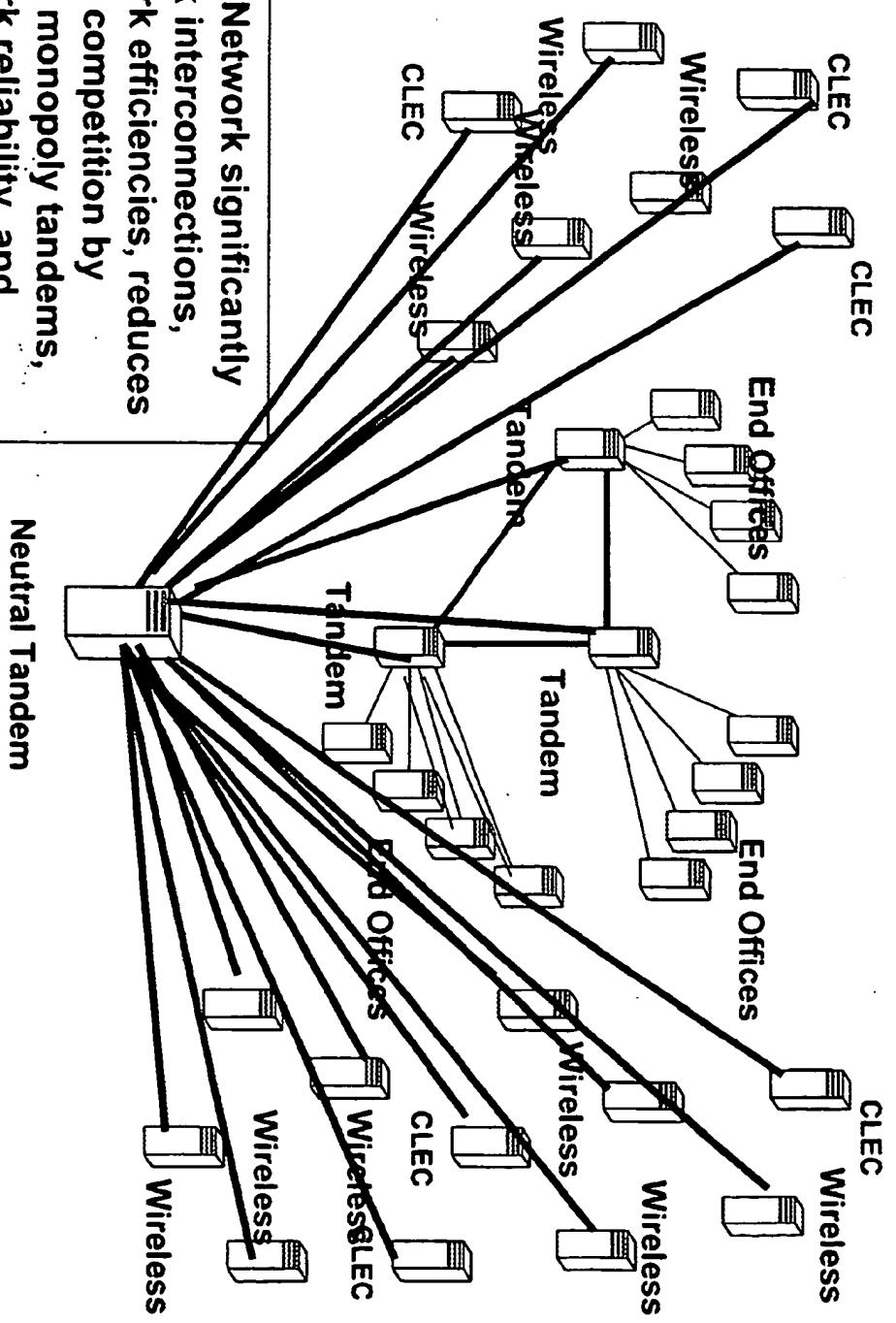
9/7/2004

Make every minute count.

Proprietary and Confidential

# Neutral Tandem Network

NEUTRAL TANDEM™



**Neutral Tandem Network significantly reduces network interconnections, improves network efficiencies, reduces costs, enhances competition by minimizing ILEC monopoly tandems, improves network reliability, and enables efficient protocol conversion.**

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# Neutral Tandem Marketing

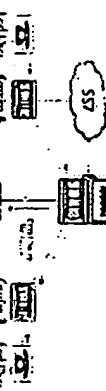
NEUTRAL TANDEM<sup>TM</sup>

## Transit and Access



### TRANSIT SERVICE

Neutral Tandem™ transit providers service multiple transit and switching networks.



In a local environment, Carrier A terminates traffic from other than LTC and makes interconnection arrangements with Carrier B. In the call from Carrier A to another Carrier, Carrier B makes the connection between its local tandem and the destination.

### PERIODIC

Following an LNP query by the customer, transit traffic is routed through the Neutral Tandem™ network using Origin (INIA-NXX) routing or direct access calls terminating to long distance providers are routed via a CIC route, and access calls terminating from long distance carriers will result via 8-digit routing of the origin number or LNP.

### PERIODIC

Neutral Tandem™ provides transit traffic from leading competitive access providers (CAR) to connect you to the exchange. The Neutral Tandem™ network consists of over 527 connections, stat-of-the-art Neutral switching, and highly leading exchange members.

### CAPACITY

Neutral Tandem™ helps you manage capacity, eliminate network congestion, and improve customer service. If for any reason capacity is not available, Neutral Tandem™ will overflow this call for completion.

Accesses are made to various local tandem systems via Neutral Tandem's network. No local tandem can be reached directly.

**NEUTRAL TANDEM**

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# Neutral Tandem Network

**NEUTRAL TANDEM™**

**Neutral:** Technically independent, not part of a proprietary network (i.e., with end users)

**Tandem:** A physical network topology where connectivity between circuits is achieved by linking several locations together in a chain using private line circuits.\*

**Network:** An integrated platform consisting of switch(es) and circuits overlaying ILEC and competitive carrier switches

\* Newton's Telecom Dictionary 1998

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# Neutral Tandem Vs. Prior Art

**NEUTRAL TANDEM™**

<b><u>Features*</u></b>	<b><u>Neutral Tandem</u></b>	<b><u>Prior Art</u></b>
Independent Network (not part of proprietary network or competitor)	Yes	No
Single Point of Connection	Yes	No
Multiple Protocols (e.g., TDM/IP, Ethernet)	Yes	No
Various Interfaces—"Fat Pipes" (DS3, OC3)	Yes	No
Mix Traffic Types Over Connections (e.g., Local, LD)	Yes	No
Includes Transport with Tandem Switching (i.e., complete network)	Yes	No
Interconnects Public and Private Carriers	Yes	No

\* Not exhaustive

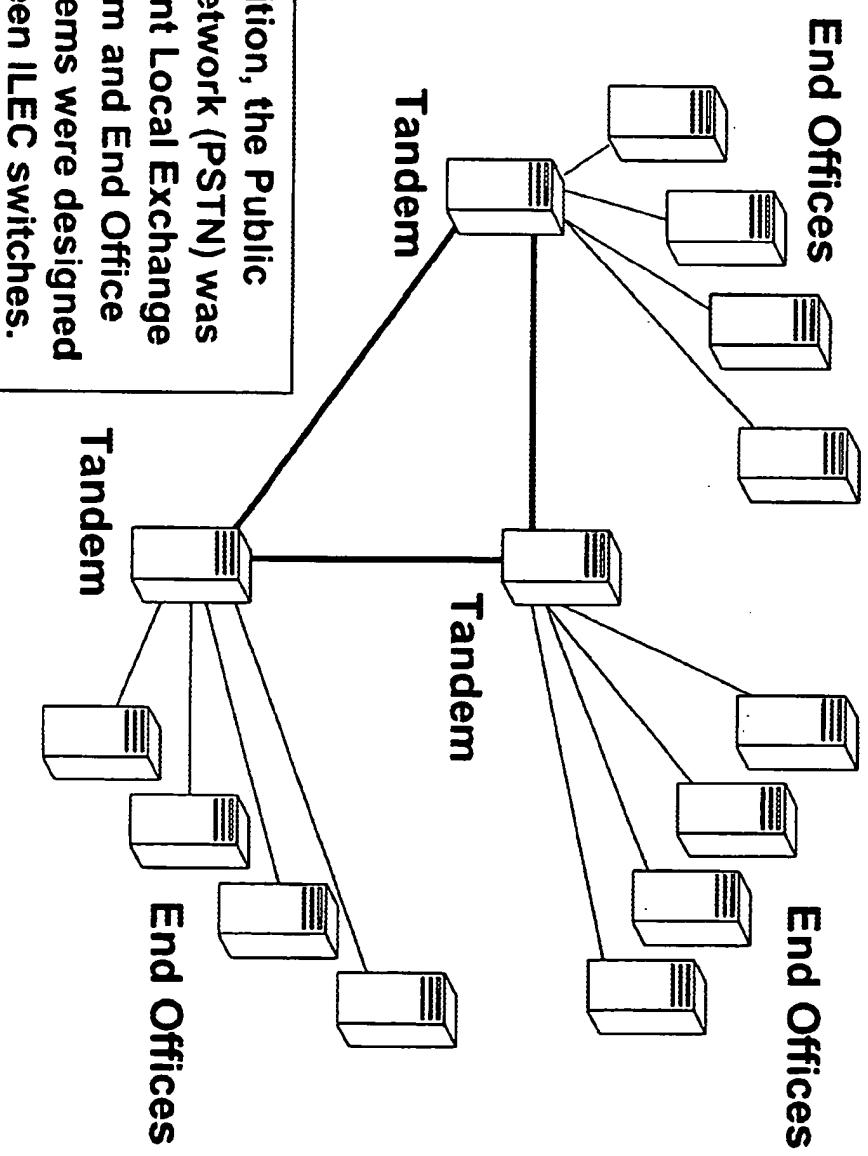
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# ILEC Tandem Network (Prior Art)

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Before local competition, the Public Switch Telephone Network (PSTN) was made up of Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) Tandem and End Office switches. ILEC Tandems were designed to route traffic between ILEC switches.

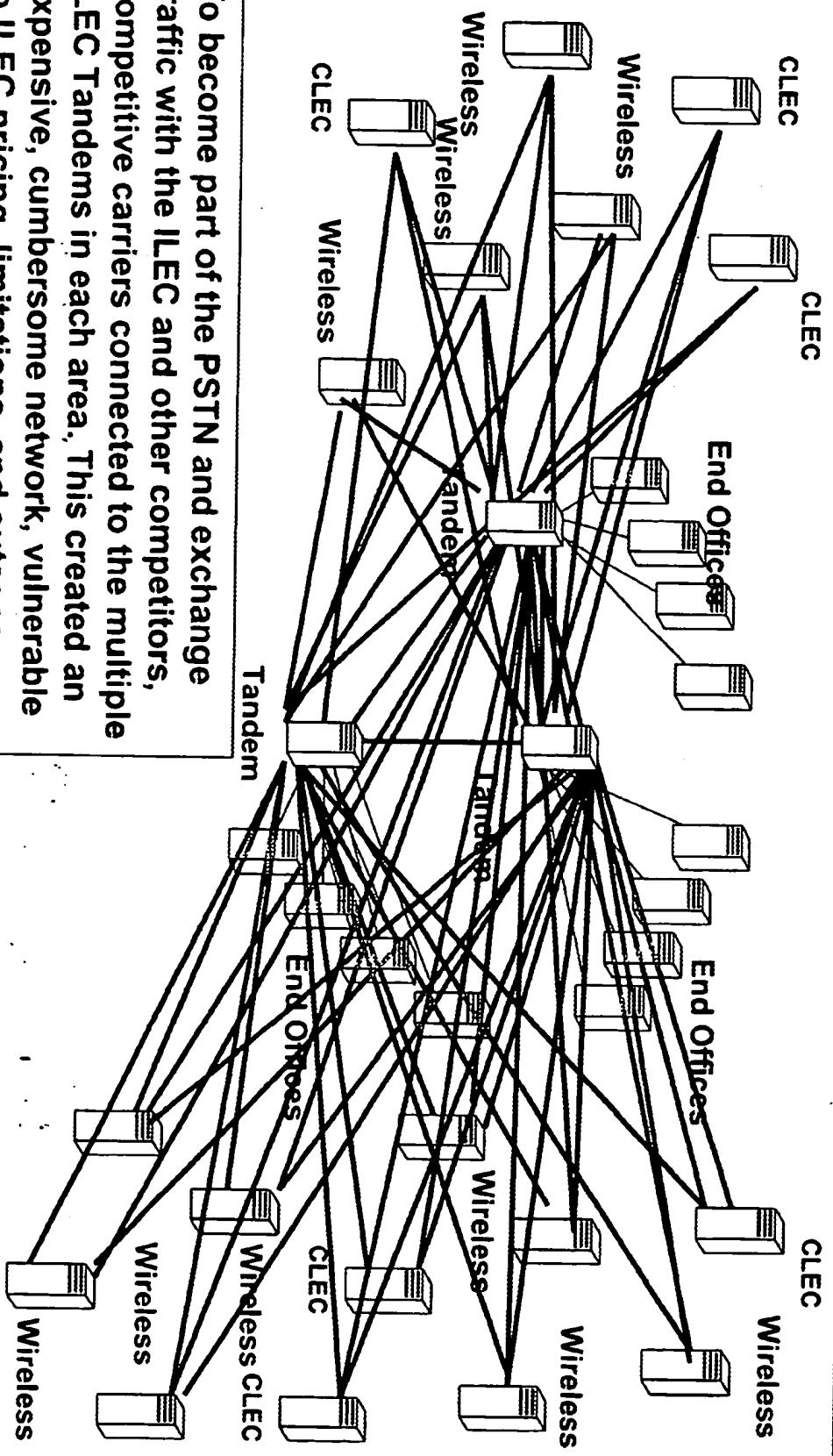
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# Current ILEC Tandem Network

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To become part of the PSTN and exchange traffic with the ILEC and other competitors, competitive carriers connected to the multiple ILEC Tandems in each area. This created an expensive, cumbersome network, vulnerable to ILEC pricing, limitations, and outages.

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